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BOROUGH OF BECCLES



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1957

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(until 31st January 1957)

P.G. CANNON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(from 1st February 1957)

H.E. NUTTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND HOUSING OFFICER

E.H. CRANMER, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTOR (Part-time)

J.C. TAYLOR, M.R.C.V.S.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.



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B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles
Borough Council.

Your Worship, Mrs. Taylor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1957. Dr. P.G. Cannon left in January of that year to take up an appointment in Staffordshire and I succeeded him as your Medical Officer in February.

There is an increase of 9 births from last year, giving an Adjusted Birth Rate of 14.5 compared with a rate of 16.1 for England and Wales. The Maternal Mortalis is again NIL and has been for a number of years.

Two children under 1 year of age died, one from a congenital abnormality and the other from a virulent brain infection. This gives an infant mortality rate of 20.8. whereas the rate for England and Wales is 23.0.

The number of deaths was 81 compared with 112 for 1956. Although there is a fall in the Registrar General's estimate of the mid 1957 population of 60 from the previous year, there is an adjusted Death Rate of 9.4. The Death Rate for 1957 for England and Wales is 11.5.

Six new cases were added to the tuberculosis register during the year. Three were new notifications and three were inward transfers from other areas now living in Beccles. Of the cases removed from the register, one died from the disease and another left the Borough to live in another area. In all there is an increase of 4 persons on the register for the year, making a total of 33.

The information in the report on food premises, shops, factories and housing is completed by your Public Health Inspector to whom I am indebted.

H. E. NUTTEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,017.
Registrar-General's estimate of population (mid-1957)	7,000
Number of inhabited houses	2,903
Rateable value at 31st December 1957	£82,863.
Product of penny rate	£323.

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births (Illegitimate Births)	53 (2)	43 (1)	96 (3)

Illegitimacy Rate (per 1,000 live births)	=	31.3
Illegitimacy Rate (England and Wales)	=	46
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	=	13.7
Adjusted birth rate	=	14.5
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	=	16.1
Comparability Factor	=	1.06

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still Births (Legitimate)	2	-	2
(Illegitimate)	(1)	(-)	(1)

Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	=	20.4
Still birth rate (England and Wales)	=	22.4

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Maternal mortality	=	NIL
Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 total births)	=	NIL
Maternal mortality rate (England & Wales)	=	0.47 per 1,000 total births.

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	1	1	2
(Illegitimate)	(-)	(-)	(-)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	=	20.8
Infant mortality rate (England & Wales)	=	23.0

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	-	-	-
(Illegitimate)	(-)	(-)	(-)

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
M	3 months	Aspiration Pneumonia Bilateral Cleft Palate.
F	1 month	Pneumococcal Meningitis.

DEATHS - ALL AGES

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
51	30	81
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population = 11.6		
Adjusted Death Rate = 9.4		
Death Rate (England and Wales) = 11.5		
Comparability Factor = 0.81		

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	-	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia,	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	5	8
Coronary disease, angina	15	10	25
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart diseases	13	6	19
Other circulatory diseases	2	-	2
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Totals	51	30	81

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.
COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local Birth Rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate.

These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower and a small proportion tends to raise, the true rate.

The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardisation of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar General issues a Comparability Factor on these lines. Multiplication of the Crude Birth Rate of an area by the Comparability Factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above.

The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population materially affects its composition by sex and age groups, are also adjusted on that account.

Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area.

Birth rate comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

NOTES ON CAUSES OF DEATH

All other accidents

One occurred in a boy aged 2 years who died from shock due to severe scalds caused by his having fallen into a bucket of hot water - accident.

The other was in a female aged 90 who developed pneumonia which was precipitated by enforced immobility, due to a fracture following a fall - accidental death.

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS 1952 - 1957

<u>Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000</u> <u>Population</u>
1952	-	-	-	-
1953	1	2	3	0.43
1954	1	1	2	0.28
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1.55</u>
			<u>Average</u>	<u>0.26</u>

Table showing the more important causes of death, numbers and percentages.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>		<u>Percentage</u>	
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Diseases of circulatory system	50	47	44.64	58.14
Vascular lesions of nervous system	26	8	23.21	9.87
Malignant diseases	12	9	10.71	11.11
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	5	8	4.46	9.87
Influenza	3	0	2.67	-
All other causes	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14.28</u>	<u>11.11</u>
	<u>112</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>99.97</u>	<u>100.10</u>

In 1957, 79% of all deaths fell under the first three headings. The comparable figures for 1956 and 1955 were 78% and 75% respectively.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	<u>YEAR</u>							
	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Population	6,862	6,829	6,903	6,965	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000
No. of Inhabited houses	2,362	2,860	2,927	2,520	2,850	2,880	2,890	2,903
No. of Live Births	79	78	99	99	95	75	87	96
Birth Rate (crude)	11.6	11.4	14.3	14.2	13.5	10.5	12.3	13.7
No. of Still Births	4	1	2	3	1	1	2	2
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant mortality rate	25.3	12.8	30.3	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8
(No. of deaths)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)
No. of deaths (all ages)	88	108	92	82	103	107	112	81
Death Rate (crude)	12.9	15.8	13.4	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6

Number of all confirmed cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1957 according to age and sex.

<u>Age</u>	<u>MEASLES</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1	2	1	3
1 -	1	3	4
2 -	2	5	7
3 -	10	6	16
4 -	7	9	16
5 - 9	53	71	124
10 - 14	5	5	10
15 - 24	1	-	1
25 - 44	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-
Unknown	3	1	4
<u>Total</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>185</u>

Diseases notified during the year, classified according to month of occurrence

	<u>MEASLES</u>
January	-
February	-
March	-
April	-
May	-
June	-
July	-
August	2
September	1
October	33
November	110
December	39
<u>Total</u>	<u>185</u>

NOTES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No other infectious disease apart from measles was notified during 1957.

It would be of help if the General Practitioners in the area would notify as soon as possible any other cases of infectious diseases if and when they occur. Their co-operation in this matter would be much appreciated.

The following infectious diseases are notifiable generally throughout England and Wales:-

Cholera
Diphtheria
Dysentery
Encephalitis (acute)
Enteric Fever (Typhoid, Paratyphoid, or other
Salmonella infections)
Erysipelas
Malaria
Measles
Membranous croup

Infectious diseases (contd.)

Meningococcal infection
 Ophthalmia neonatorum
 Plague
 Pneumonia, acute primary
 Pneumonia, acute influenzal
 Poliomyelitis (acute)
 Puerperal Pyrexia
 Relapsing Fever
 Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever
 Smallpox
 Tuberculosis
 Typhus
 Whooping cough
 Food poisoning (or Suspected Food Poisoning).

Infective Lepatitis is also a notifiable disease in East Anglia.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

In Beccles Borough, in 1957, 91 primary immunisations were carried out by the child welfare clinic and general practitioners. The ages of the children immunised were as follows:-

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Numbers Immunised</u>
1957	21
1956	55
1955	2
1954	5
1953	1
1952	1
1951	1
1950	5
1949	-
1948	-
1943-1947	-
Total	<u>91</u>

During the same year, 77 booster doses were given.
 During 1956 73 primary immunisations were carried out.
 During 1955, 55 do.
 During 1954, 93 do.

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>	
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1956.	18	2	5	4	29
Number of cases added during the year.	5	-	1	-	6
Number of cases removed during the year.	1	-	-	1	2
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1957.	22	2	6	3	33

Cases Added to the Register

New notifications = 3

Inward transfers = 3

Total 6Cases Removed from the Register

Recovered = -

Died = 1

Removed to other areas = 1

Total 2Cases on the Register, according to age and sex at 31st December 1957.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 5 years	1	-	1
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	3	4	7
25 - 44 years	13	3	16
45 - 64 years	6	1	7
65 years and over	1	1	2
Age unknown	-	-	-
	<u>24</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>33</u>

Comparative Figures of Tuberculosis at 31st December, 1957

<u>District</u>	<u>Popula- tion</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Cases per 1,000 Population</u>
		<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>		
Beccles M.B.	7,000	28	5	33	4.7
Blyth R.D.	19,100	54	15	69	3.6
Bungay U.D.	3,570	26	6	32	8.9
Halesworth U.D.	2,330	12	5	17	7.3
Leiston-cum- Sizewell U.D.	4,160	21	4	25	6.0
Wainford R.D.	6,790	16	11	27	3.8

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR
1957

To:-

His Worship the Mayor, the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.

I present my ninth Annual Report since my appointment in May 1949.

Throughout the year 1957, I also acted as the Council's Housing Officer.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 ETC.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

With the exception of Pudding Moor, and isolated properties on the fringes of the Borough (a total of some fifty-six properties), water carriage drainage is universal.

Sewage disposal is the responsibility of the Borough Engineer.

There is nothing to report in connection with sewage disposal. The effluent from the Council's inadequate and outmoded sewage disposal works continued to be reasonably well sedimented, but denuded of oxygen.

Details of notices served in connection with drainage etc. are as follows:-

Renew sanitary accommodation	14
Improve sanitary accommodation	9
Repair defective drainage	12
Unchoke drains	14
Abolish disused water closets	2

Refuse Collection

This is under the control of the Borough Engineer.

Collection is weekly. A new tip adjacent to the Quay was opened during the year, the intention being to raise the level, so that the facilities provided there can ultimately be extended.

In 12 cases, new bins were provided as a result of informal action.

Abatement of Nuisances

In four cases, nuisances caused by the unsatisfactory keeping of animals were abated.

The pollution of the atmosphere by smoke has not been a major problem. In four cases, the owners of factories were required to abate nuisances. In one case a permanent remedy was found by the substitution of oil burning equipment.

Spraying of certain dykes causing a nuisance from mosquito breeding was undertaken, as was the spraying of slaughterhouses in the Borough to lessen the incidence of blow fly infestation.

Water Supply

With the exception of about 23 properties in isolated positions, or where levels make connection to existing mains difficult, all properties are supplied with piped water.

Water is supplied by the Joint Water Board, consisting of representatives of Beccles Borough and Wainford and Lothingland Rural District Councils, from the Barsham Bore.

The water has of course, been sampled regularly by their Engineer, and found to be bacteriologically and chemically beyond reproach.

Bathing Pool

The Council's Bathing Pool, a fenced-off area of the River Waveney, continued in use throughout the summer, and was a source of concern due to the risk of the infection of swimmers by excrementally borne infection.

Swabs and water specimens were submitted regularly from the Pool and river, in the hope that prompt action could be taken should the presence of pathogenic organisms be detected.

Fifty-three swabs and twenty specimens of water were submitted for bacteriological examination, and one specimen of water for chemical analysis.

HOUSING

No new Council house building was undertaken during the year. There are in the Borough 659 Council houses or flats.

During the year, Demolition Orders were served in respect of three dwelling houses, and Closing Orders were made in respect of four parts of buildings used for human habitation. Twenty-four houses, defective but capable of repair at reasonable expense, were rendered fit under the provisions of the Public Health or Housing Acts.

Improvement grants were made in respect of 12 properties during the year.

FOOD PREPARATION, HANDLING ETC.

Milk

There were four dairies in the Borough during the year 1957. Two handled both tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk and were satisfactory. Two were tuberculin tested producers, one of which closed during the year. Control of the other, by virtue of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, is vested in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Meat

There continued to be three slaughterhouses in the Borough in 1957, two having a relatively small, local trade, the third being a sizeable business supplying meat not only all over this country, but to the Continent.

The two small slaughterhouses in Blyburgate and Ravensmere have not caused undue difficulty, but the Caxton Road premises, due to their inadequacy for the volume of work carried on, and their bad siting, have been a cause of anxiety for years. It is pleasing to report that new, adequate, up-to-date premises to replace them were in course of construction and their use should be discontinued during 1958.

Meat inspection has continued to be a source of difficulty due to the absence of any legal control over the volume or hours of slaughter. Generally it has taken place seven days a week, often until a late hour, and it has been possible to inspect every animal slaughtered only with difficulty and considerable personal inconvenience.

The following is a record of slaughtering and condemnations during 1957.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
No. killed	5,641	171	274	8,168
No. inspected	5,641	171	274	8,168
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	25	4	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,028	—	—	658
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	18.8%	2.3%	—	8.1%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	105	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	641	—	—	159
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.2%	—	—	1.8%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigera- tion.				
Generalised and totally condemned.	1	—	—	—

Other Foods

A total of 134 items of other food was condemned, and 85½ lb. of imported meat.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned meat was removed for processing and ultimate sale as animal food or fertiliser.

Other food was burned and buried on the Council's tip.

Food Preparing Premises

Inspection of food preparing premises under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56 was virtually completed during the year.

The following is a record of work required to be carried out:-

Provide constant hot water	22
Provide new sinks	2
Provide drainage to sink	4
Provide proper food store	2
Provide new kitchen	1
Provide impervious surfaces for food preparation	4
Stop smoking in food preparing premises	1

Eight premises are registered for the manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food. One premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, the rest sold in the Borough being prepacked, 23 premises being registered for its storage.

RODENT CONTROL

A total of 224 premises were treated for rats or mice, and the sewerage system of the Borough was treated 4 times with very satisfactory results.

FACTORIES

There were fifty-three factories with Mechanical Power in the Borough on 31st December 1957, and one non-power factory.

No notices were served in respect of contraventions under the Factories Acts.

E. H. CRANMER.

May, 1958.

Public Health Inspector.

